

## 4-H and its Efforts to Strengthen and Expand Outreach in King County

King County is the 13th largest county in the nation. To facilitate communication and support throughout this large region, the county is divided into areas that now reflect County Council Districts. Although different areas may offer 4-H programs at a variety of sites and during



different times of the year, all 4-H programs are available in all areas. The structure of leader committees and the active projects may also vary depending on the rural/urban nature of the community and the interest of members.

### Program Goals:

Provide better customer service to our 4-H volunteers and members.

Highlight 4-H clubs outstanding community service projects on the 4-H web page. These community service projects will be showcased based on the club's King County Council District location.

Implement strategies to have a balanced 4-H program in all segments of King County. Currently, we have a strong presence in some areas of the county but not in others. This evaluation process will be done based on each of the 13 King County Council Districts.

Report 4-H clubs activities periodically to each of the 13 King County Councilmembers and the Executive. These reports will serve to validate that we are accountable for the taxpayers dollars provided to 4-H by the county. Initially, we will ask clubs to report on a monthly basis the amount of adult volunteer and community service hours performed.

Provide new opportunities for clubs to have civic engagement at the county level.

Implement strategies to increase the number of volunteers in the 4-H program. This recruitment process will be done in each of the 13 King County Council Districts.

These are goals that we think will enhance the 4-H program and better serve the youth and families of King County. We will continue to provide our basic services in addition to these goals. We will not allow budget constraints deter us from our mission "to provide opportunities for youth to become responsible, productive, capable, and caring citizens".

### IMPACTS

- 4-H enrollment was up 14% in 2003.
- Outreach to under served communities continued to increase by over 25%.
- At least 20 community partnerships were established and sustained in King County.
- Marketing 4-H to all parts of the county is now targeting each of the 13 King County Council Districts.
- Summer 4-H programs in the urban areas expanded to continue year-round.

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*The following initiatives are designed to meet and continue to strengthen and expand 4-H programming in King County. The 4-H initiatives are as follows:*

### **“King County 4-H Community Partnership Development Action Plan”**

Designed to identify and recruit community, service, and faith-based organizations to form partnerships with 4-H.

4-H will train these organizations and solicit volunteer leadership support.

### **“King County Council District Alignment”**

The process of aligning 4-H programming activities based on each of the 13 King County Council Districts.

Using GIS technology, 4-H clubs and activities will be highlighted and shared with each of the 13 King County Councilmembers.

Community service, volunteer hours, and 4-H clubs will be identified and categorized for each King County Council District.

### **“4-H Know Your King County Government”**

4-H project designed to educate youth about how King County Government functions.

Promote knowledgeable and responsible citizenship.

Form an interactive relationship between 4-H youth and their King County Councilmembers and the Executive.

*Carris E. Booker*

Carris Booker  
Extension Faculty  
4-H Youth Development  
(206) 205-3177  
[carris.booker@metrokc.gov](mailto:carris.booker@metrokc.gov)

WSU King County Extension  
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 120  
Renton, WA 98055-2980  
<http://www.metrokc.gov/wsu-cc>

